improvement of agriculture has already been taken up by me in consultation with the Director of Agriculture and I hope that before long it may be possible to evolve a scheme which will not only work effectively but work rapidly.

175. Facilities for the development of commerce, industries and agriculture.

MR. M. M. SHAHUL HAMEED SAHEB (*Member, Nominated*) said that in the interests of agriculture the tanks in the Tovala, Agasteeswaram, Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks should be repaired. A part of the cost of repairing the tanks might even be recovered from the ryots.

A bridge should be constructed at Kariyamanickapuram on the Pazhayar midway between the bridges at Ozhuganasery and Suchindram.

The western bank of the Pazhayar at the 18th mile should be repaired.

In regard to commerce, several members had already referred to the working of the Income Tax Regulation, the paucity of means of communication etc. Government should pay earnest attention to these representations. In order to further develop the commerce of the State a pier should be put up at Colachel.

The Kallar hydro-electric scheme should be taken up and investigated again, so as to see whether it could be utilised as a means of securing the industrialisation of the country. Travancore had many natural products. The manufacture of these raw-products was not making headway merely for want of cheap power. If such power could be provided, cocoagem could be made from cocoa-nuts, sago could be made from tapioca flour, and wood which was selling very cheap now could be made into finished products and sold for handsome prices.

Cottage industries such as coir-making, basket-making etc., should be developed. Government should provide facilities for the export of the articles made in the State into foreign countries.

Natives should be allowed a greater share in the Chamber of Commerce.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Shahul Hameed Sahib, to begin at the end of your representation, I am afraid the Government have no rights of intervention in the affairs of the Chamber of Commerce which is a voluntary association of private merchants for their own good and for the good of trade and commerce generally in the country.

I quite agree with you that if we have a tentative supply of cheap power it will go a long way towards industrialising the country; but first of all you have got to implant an industrial mind in the people. That will take a long time and until that tendency begins to develop I think it will be uneconomical to establish a powerful hydro-electric station producing, perhaps, vast supplies of power which could not be utilised. I have no doubt that when the time comes that would become realisable.

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Then you touched upon such power being utilised for making sago out of tapioca flour. I do not think we could manage to extract sago from tapioca. I shall however ask the Director of Industries to have his Industrial Chemist experiment in the matter. At present sago comes from the sago palm. It may for all I know be quite possible that we may be able to find it from the tapioca tuber. Even if we do convert tapioca into sago, these two considerations will come up. First of all, tapioca is largely eaten by the people either wholly or partly as a staple food.

Now, Java produces large quantities of tapioca but the people there do not eat it and the whole of it is converted into flour at a cheap rate. With the huge quantity of tapioca exported from Java, it will be impossible for the Travancore tapioca to enter the markets on a competitive basis. According to the present conditions, which I investigated some time ago, it is impossible for Travancore tapioca to compete with the tapioca produced in Java.

You referred to the subject of the Income Tax Regulation. This is a matter which will receive attention at the hands of Government.

176. Economic Development.

MR. K. C. EAPEN (*Member, Mercantile and Trading Classes, Trivandrum*) said that the progress that Travancore was to make was to be along the lines mainly of commerce and industry. There was not very much scope hereafter for the development of agriculture. In regard to industries, the department was still in the stage of experiments. But it was high time that it should do something practical. Something substantial should be done for the development of factory industries and cottage industries. There should be better co-ordination between the departments of agriculture, industry and commerce.

The railway should be extended to Ernakulam. People apprehended that the scheme stood in danger of being given up. If that idea had been entertained by Government, then such a costly establishment as that of the present railway department was, to say the least, unjustifiable. The earlier it was disbanded, the better it would prove to be.

Economic conferences should be held at which important questions relating to trade, industries etc., should be discussed. The Economic Development Board, as at present organised, was doing little or no good. Public money was being merely wasted on it.

In regard to the State Bank, Government should exercise over it a direction or control similar to that exercised by the Government of India over the Imperial Bank. As regards private banks, Government should encourage their growth and grant them some concessions. They did not want loans or anything like that from Government. But Government should lend them their moral support, for instance, Government should recognise the cheques of at least some of them. The amount of the cheques might, if necessary, be limited. Again Government

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